3: Mirchuk S-4 (no date) 1949 RDl Ukraine RDl

The Ukrainian Territory

I

1. Geographical Relations

a) Its place in Europe

The frontiers of Ukraine coincide with the boundaries of the area settled by the Ukrainian people. This area stretches from the Upper Tisa, the Danube, the Black Sea and the Caucasus to the woods and marshes of Polesya, from the Poprad, the Syan, the Vepr and the Pilitsa rivers (affluents of the Vistula) to the valleys of the Caucasus and the broad waters of the Don; further east numerous Ukrainian settlements lie on the way to Siberia and the Pacific. /131

Ukraine is the bridge between Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean countries. Its tectonic structure is determined by the Ukraine gneiss and the chains of the Carpathians, the Yaila mountains and the Caucasus (young fold system). Recent shiftings of the surface have lent a more varied shape to this landscape than to any other in Eastern Europe. The glaciers of the Ice Age covered only a small part of what we call Ukraine to-day, with the result, however, that most of the country was covered with a thick crust of loess, the origin of the fertile Black Earth. Climate and flora are distinctly different from those of adjoining countries but, in spite of this, Ukraine does not possess any marked natural frontiers. The Black Sea and the Caucasus alone may be regarded as such and in the north, the boundary is partly given by the marshes of Polesya. The history of Ukraine has been in part determined by its lack of frontiers protected by Nature. /133 ●

b) Frontiers

The Ukrainian territory lies between 43° and 53°N and 21° and 45°E on the way to Asia, the continent of steppes and deserts. In consequence of their position, the frontiers of Ukraine have often been subject to alterations; the limits of the settled area often overlap neighboring areas and are, indeed, often so blurred that no sharp boundaries can be drawn, especially /131

pendence in the years 1917—1920, Ukraine was distributed among the following countries:

Ukraine Territory	Area	Population on 1. 1. 1939 (in millions)
to USSR	216 846 sq.m.	37.3
to Poland	46 932 sq.m.	9.7
to Roumania	6 769 sq.m.	1.4
to Czechoslovakia	5 730 sq.m.	0.8

A separate Ukraine Soviet Republic was formed within the USSR (170 423 sqm. with 31.9 million inhabitants). The remaining Ukraine districts in Soviet Russia belonged to the RSFSR, and a tiny piece of Polesya to the Republic of Whi e Ruthenia. At the end of World War II almost the whole Ukrainian territory fell to the Soviet Union. 20 000 km² with more t' an a million inhabitants belongs to Poland, 5 000 km² with 100 00. inhabitants to Slovakia and small minorities to Roumania.

Soviet Ukraine embraces about 261 538 sq.m. with 43 million inhabitants. —

2. Natural Conditions in Ukraine

a) Landscape of Ukraine

Ukraine consists of vast plains and plateaus which seldom rise as high as 1000 ft. above sea-level. The monotony of the Ukrainian landscape is akin to that of neighboring countries in Eastern Europe. One can travel for hundreds of miles through a landscape that never changes, for the plateaus differ little from the plains, the transition from the one physical configuration to the other being scarcely perceptible. In the south, the scene is varied by mountains, but these constitute but 1/10 of the entire area of Ukraine.

Passing from south to north, we can distinguish 5 different forms of landscape.

In the south the southern low plain stretches along and includes the plains at the foot of the Carpathian mountains with the valley of the Vistula, the Syan and the Dnister, the Black Sea depression and the plain surrounding the lowlands of

the Don, touching the valley of the Kuban and the shore of the Caspian Sea. 133

This is followed by the zone of plateaus: the plateau between Lviv and Tomashev, Podolia, the Kholm-Volynia plateau, the Pokutia-Bessarabia plateau, the Dnipro plateau, and the Oziv-Donets plateau.

This zone of plateaus is bounded on the north by a strip of the northern plain. It embraces Podlakhia, Polesya and the district of Chernyhiv.

This zone unites with the plain on the left bank of the Dnipro in its middle course which merges on the eastern boundary with the plain on the left bank of the Donets.

Only the southern slope of the isolated plateau of Central Russia belongs to Ukraine.

From the point of view of geology, the oldest area is the so-called Ukrainian Crystal Plateau, consisting of the Dnipro and the Oziv plateaus and the eastern part of Volynia. Water and weathering influences have destroyed this ancient mountain ridge. Early in the Tertiary period it was flooded by the sea, covered with sands and loams and then, during the Ice Age, with a thick crust of loess.

In the Carbon period of the Paleozoic era the seams in the Donets Basin were formed. They seemed to turn north-west under the Dnipro Plain, for coal has also been found at Poltava.

The plain on the left bank of the Dnipro was formed by the depression between the Ukrainian Crystal Plateau and the Russian Central Plateau; this took place in the Jurassic period of the Mesozoic formation. The Carpathians, the Yaila mountains and the Caucasus belong to the Tertiary period.

No mountain-forming agents influenced other parts of Ukraine. The horizontal deposits in these areas are called „Black Sea Plateau".

Diluvial glaciers reached a line running over Sambir — Lviv — Lutsk — Zhytomyr — Kremenchuk — Hadiach — Briansk.

133 When the glaciers receded, sands, loams, moranes and numerous lakes were left. The wind blew tiny particles of loam (loess) out of the masses of sand and they gradually covered the entire central strip of the plateau and of the southern plain. This loess soil of Central and Southern Ukraine, the famous Black Earth, is the best type of soil in Europe. It covers about 70 million hectares (about 200 million acres) and makes Ukraine the granary of Europe.

The northern areas which retained sand and flint silted up and became marshes.

As a result of the emergence of the Ukrainian ridge and the plateau and of the depression of Polesya and the Black Sea Plain, the work of the rivers was sped up in the uplands and retarded in the plains. The river beds became deeper and deeper and formed the ravines (jary) which are characteristic of the Ukraine.

The landscape of Polesya has changed least of all. Extensive fens, marshy meadows and forests, from which a solid island occasionally emerges (all that is left of an old moraine or sand-dune) flank the sluggish waters of the Prypyat and its tributaries. In spring and after rains the banks are flooded and Polesya becomes one wide lake with trees and huts showing above the surface. What agrarian land exists is bad, and the population poor. Podlakhia is drier and richer in forests; the virgin forest of Bielovjesh with its herds of bison is well-known. The district round Chernyhiv is also higher and therefore more densely populated. The zone of the plateaus, especially Podolia, offer the eye a very different scene. It is a landscape of ravines, the largest and finest of which is that cut by the Dnister. The table-lands of Podolia slope gently towards the south and the plateau of Kholm and Volynia. Its „mountain ridge" is the Towtry chain formed of old coral reefs.

The Pokutia-Bessarabian plateau has a structure similar to Podolia. The plateau on the right bank of the Dnipro falls down abruptly 300 ft. to the river-bed, providing a jagged, mountainous horizon. The right bank tributaries have rocky channels and their courses are marked by frequent rapids

(porohy). The most famous of these is between Dnipropetrovske and Zaporizha; they are regulated to-day and no longer an obstacle to navigation. 133

The lowlands on the left bank form a sandy plain that rises in terraces to the Central Russian Plateau. It is steppe, bare of trees and rich in loess and is therefore fertile and densely populated.

On the Donets Plateau at the bend of the Donets river big industrial towns have sprung up in the last centuries, thus completely altering the appearance of the old steppes.

The characteristic features of the Black Sea Plain are the sluggish rivers that flow between banks overgrown with reeds; where they enter the sea, they form so called "Lymany", i. e. flooded valley bottoms which are separated from the sea by a strip of land broken at more than one point. In northern Crimea we are struck by the numerous salt lakes from which salt is extracted. The Kuban plain is distinguished by its fertility and mild climate; the Caspian plain, on the other hand, is a dry steppe merging into a sandy, salty desert blown over by all the winds of heaven.

On the coast of the Black Sea which falls away in low rocks we find again the flat sandbanks of the Adriatic character (the Lido). Such a sandbank, the Arabat, on the Oziv coast separates the Sea of Oziv from the "Lazy Sea".

The southern coast of the Crimea and the Caucasus, on the other hand, is steep and provides good harbors, as the sea is deep here (e. g. Sevastopil, Novorossijske etc).

The surface of the Crimean mountains which reach a height of 3800 ft. in Roman Kosh, is eroded. On the tops there are alpine pasturages (Jajla); on the north the wooded slopes fall gently, while on the south they descend abruptly to the sea.

The Caucasus has all the characteristics of a high mountain range; the lower heights are covered with virgin forest, the massed peaks in the centre rise far above snow-line (7500 — 10 000 ft.) reaching the highest point in the giant Elbrus (ca. 17 000 ft.).

133 In the Carpathians, too, it is only the central area that was settled by the Ukrainian people; this is a rolling, hilly landscape, rising to some 7 000 ft. (Chornohora). The Carpathian foothills are fertile and thickly populated and rich in mineral wealth (petroleum in Boryslav and Jaslo, potassium and common salt in Kalush, brown coal).

b) Climate

132 The climate of Ukraine is moderate, a continental climate with big differences between summer and winter temperatures (s. table).

Table:

Area / Lat.	Longit.	Height (meters)	Temperature in Celsius				Rainfall (mm)
			av. Jan.		July	Diff.	
Lviv 49° 50	24° 21	298	7.6	-4.0	18.7	22.7	690
Kyiv 50° 27	30° 30	183	6.9	-6.0	19.3	23.3	590
Kharkiv 50° 00	36° 14	140	6.6	-7.8	20.4	28.2	507
Stalingrad 48° 42	44° 31	42	7.7	9.9	24.7	34.6	372

Compared with that of Russia, the climate of Ukraine is warmer and more favorable to the cultivation of the soil; compared with that of western countries, it is drier and much healthier.

Climatically, Ukraine falls into four provinces, viz.:

1. the province of boreal climate (cold in winter, moderately warm in summer) lies in the north and stretches to the line Chisinau — Poltava — Voroshylivhrad — Saratov. It is favorable for the growth of forest plants.

2. the province of the dry steppe climate (cold winters, hot summers. low rainfall) stretches farther south to the mountains. Rainfall is irregularly distributed and is often insufficient for tree growth. The grass steppe is characteristic of this province.

3. the province of alpine climate includes the Carpathians, the Yaila and Caucasus ranges. The most striking feature in the alpine climate is the drop in average temperature in inverse proportion to altitude and the higher rainfall.

4. the province of oceanic climate (southern coast of Crimea and that part of Sub-Caucasia that lies along the sea coast) has warm, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. 132

c) Rivers and Seas

The rivers of Ukraine are long and carry much water. They either flow to the Baltic (Syan, Veper, Buh and Narew and other tributaries of the Vistula), or to the Black Sea and the Sea of Oziv (Danube with tributaries, Dnister, Buh, Dnipro, Don with Donets etc.). The fact that the main watershed runs through the plains faciliates the construction of a network of canals connecting the seas. The Dnipro (1405 miles long and draining an area of 199 230 sq. miles) is the largest river in Ukraine. Historical settlements lie on its banks and the Ukrainian state developed along its course. For the people of Ukraine it is a sacred river. 133 487

The Buh (497 miles long, draining an area of 24 450 sq. miles) flows into the Black Sea west of the Dnipro. It has not much water and is not navigable.

South-west Ukraine is drained by the Dnister (856 miles long, area of basin 29615 sq. m.). Its course is not regulated either and it is not navigable. The rivers Prut and Cheremosh connect Ukraine with the Danube, while the Don and the Donets form the channel to the Sea of Oziv; the Kuban river drains the Kuban plain.

The Black Sea (area 158 462 sq. miles) connected by the Kerch Strait with the Sea of Oziv (area 14 615 sq. miles) has always been the channel of commerce between the eastern world and the countries round the Mediterranean. Its most important harbors, Odessa, Sevastopil, and Novorossijske are blocked by ice for a short time only; the Sea of Oziv, on the other hand, is too shallow to be navigable.

d) Flora and Fauna

The commonest tree in the northern forest zone is the pine; the birch, the alder, the ash and other species also occur frequently. In the west we find beech and larch, and in the Carpathians the spruce and the fir, and sometimes even the cedar. 137

491 roads were superior in quality to those in Galicia and the network was denser. The total length of highways in Ukraine was approximately 24 000 km. There was little motor traffic: there was more in Carpatho-Ukraine but in 1937 there were in Ukraine only 13 cars per 10 000 inhabitants (in France 492, England 431, Germany 183).

4. Inland Waterways

● 133 As regards length and the area of their basins, the rivers of 487 Ukraine are among the largest in Europe, but their navigability suffers from frequent windings, shallows and rapids. In summer variations in the water level are a great disadvantage, while in winter the rivers are frozen for 3—4 months. As the rivers melt from the mouth, there is no danger from ice-floes. 90 % of the rivers flow into the Black Sea, some into the Vistula and two insignificant streams into the Caspian Sea. The Dnipro and some of its tributaries are navigable as are also 4 other rivers:

The Dnipro is 2 248 km long and drains an area of 518 500 square kilometers, so that it is the third biggest river in Europe. By the dam it has been made navigable for 1 250 kilometers. Its tributaries, the Pripyat, the Desna and the Seym are also navigable. The total length of the Dnipro navigable network is 3250 kilometers, while 4 300 km of waterways can be used for shipping and floating rafts, i. e. more than $^2/_3$ of the total waterways in Ukraine (6 200 km).

505 Freight traffic on the Dnipro did not reach the pre-war level of 2.7 million t till 1932 and had increased by 1935 to 3.9 million t. Passenger traffic doubled in those years and amounted to 4.8 millions. $^1/_3$ of the goods transported was wood, and $^1/_4$ mineral building materials, more than $^1/_8$ grain, while coal, ore and metal were poorly represented. The important harbor towns on the Dnipro are Kyiv, Dnipropetrivske, Nishnodniprovske and Kherson.

The Dnister (1 372 km long, draining an area of 77 000 sq. km) has been prevented by geological and political conditions from developing any great shipping. Upper reaches and lower belong to two absolutely different political systems. Before the

505 First World War grain, wood, gypsum and building stone (250 000 t) were transported on the river, while later only wood was shipped on the upper reaches.

133 487 505 The Kuban (800 km long, with a basin of about 60 000 sq.km) has its source in Caucasian glaciers and is navigable all the year round for a stretch of 350 km. It is true that gravel and sandbanks make shipping difficult. In 1935 230 000 t of freight were shipped down the river. The Boh (709 km long, with a basin of 64 000 sq.km) has little water and many rapids. 100 km are navigable, but traffic is negligible. Of the Don (1984 km long, with a basin of 425 000 sq.km) which is the fourth biggest river in Europe, only the navigable lower reaches belong to Ukraine. Goods transported are above all grain, coal, salt- 254 000 t in 1935. Conveyance of passengers is negligible.

Its right tributary, the Donets (1 020 km, with a basin of 99 000 km) crosses the Donets Basin and is navigable for a stretch of 350 km. The Buh, Vepr and Syan, Prut, Seret and Tysa are only important for floating down logs.

503 The condition of the Ukrainian waterways is not imposing, though Ukraine comes fourth in Europe with its 6 200 km of navigable rivers. There is no thorough system of regulating the rivers or building canals to connect them, though this has been planned for decades. There are only 200 km of canals. The following artificial systems of communication by water have been planned:

a) reconstruction of the Viking way and the linking up of Leningrad, Kyiv and Kherson (2 canals each 30 km long);

b) a connection between Riga and Kherson, in place of the antiquated route via the Beresina which has existed since 1805;

c) development of the now inadequate route (Oginski-Canal etc. 343 km) between the Dnipro or the Pripyat, Pina and Jasiolda and — via the Shara — the Memel linking Kherson with Königsberg;

d) (Royal canal etc. 233 km) between the Pina and — via the Mukhovets — the Buh and the Vistula, connecting Kherson with Danzig;

3: Mirchuk S-4 (no date) 1949 RDl Ukraine RDl

e) the construction of a canal from the Dnipro, via the Desna and the Bolva (30 km) to the Zizdra and Oka, and so to Moscow and the Volga; 503

f) a canal between the Dnipro and the Donets, via Samara and Vovcha;

g) a connection between Danzig and the Black Sea via the Vistula and the Syan, linking up with the Dnister and perhaps the Prut;

h) a canal between the Caspian and the Black Sea, via the valley of the Manych, a tributary of the Don and the Sea of Oziv.

5. Sea Traffic

The position of Ukraine like a fan, spreading out from the Black Sea and the Sea of Oziv is particularly favorable for the export of mass products, while the coast of the Black Sea has not many natural harbors. Ports can, however, be built in the limans of the river-mouths. The coast of the Sea of Oziv is definitely unfavorable. It is only recently that harbor equipment has been mechanised and the harbors themselves improved. 133 ● 504

Odessa is the third largest harbor in Russia, coming after Riga and Leningrad and lying in a bay 30 km north-east of the Dnister liman which is too shallow for shipping. The harbor is well constructed and freezes only for 2—3 weeks, which is easy to manage. Odessa is the only port in Ukraine where exports practically balance imports (in 1913: 2113 and 2061 t. average for 1930—1934: 1234 and 1550 thousand t). These figures refer to the total turn-over, in which figures for coastal trade exceed those for actual exports. In the former the import figures were higher and in the latter the export figures. 505

In Odessa grain forms the biggest part of the freight which also includes sugar, wood, methylated spirits and oil-cake. The imports are groceries, fruit, textile raw materials, chemicals etc. The town had become an important financial center with a stock exchange.

Mykolaiv on the liman of the Boh has a well built harbor with good connections with the hinterland. Grain and ore from 504

p 130

VI. FROM UNDERGROUND TO RESISTANCE

133 For groups carrying on open resistance to an occupying power, the Ukraine as a whole is a highly inhospitable region; throughout most of its extent it is an open plain without natural places of concealment. Aside from the mountainous areas of the Carpathians in Galicia, the Carpatho-Ukraine, and Bukovina, which remained for a long time outside the scope of open resistance activities, sheltered retreats for bands of any considerable size are difficult to find. They are limited almost entirely to the belt of woods and swamp on the northern border. Originally, forest vegetation prevailed north of a line reaching from a point on the Polish border not far to the southwest of Kremenets almost due east, through Zhitomir and Kiev, to the boundary of the Ukraine and the Russian Soviet Republic some fifty miles northwest of [311] Sumy.[1] In the course of the centuries, a large part of this region has been cleared for cultivation; the presence of numerous swampy areas prevented all the forest from being cut down, however, so that there are frequent wooded areas, which become more common and less separated by open spaces the farther north one goes. In the Ukraine, as it was administratively defined prior to 1941, this wooded strip rarely exceeds one hundred miles in width, although it is almost four hundred miles long. The Reichskommissariat Ukraine, however, included an additional strip annexed from Belorussia, averaging about forty miles in width, and containing still more impenetrable swamps than the more southerly wooded area. Of the forested region, the southern part, which has been partly cleared, is valuable agriculturally and is thickly settled; it forms an integral part of the

[1] Cf. *Entsyklopediia Ukraïnoznastva* (Encyclopedia of Things Ukrainian), eds. Volodymyr Kubiiovych and Zenon Kuzelia (Munich: Naukove Tovarystvo im. Shevchenka, 1949), p. 106.

historic Ukrainian lands of Volhynia, Kiev, and Chernigov. The northern part, appropriately known as Polessia, or the "forest land," is of little value for crop growing but contains the only timber industry of significance in the Ukraine.

As the German armies rolled into the Ukraine in 1941, they tended to advance along the main lines of communication, avoiding the difficult, swampy regions. For weeks, or in some cases even months, the less accessible areas were not brought under German control. This circumstance made possible the development of partisan bands which carried on resistance to the occupation authority.

Although, since 1945, Soviet writers have maintained that the plans for guerrilla warfare against the conqueror had been secretly prepared before the outbreak of hostilities, they assert that these plans were known only to the top level of Communist Party officials. It is fairly certain that the order to develop a partisan movement came as a surprise even to most devoted Communists.[2] In July, 1941, after the decision to form partisan detachments was announced, preparations were pushed forward at a rapid rate by the local authorities. The rapidity of the German advance to the line of the Dnieper, however, rendered largely ineffective systematic attempts to form a partisan movement in the Ukraine west of that river. Even east of the Dnieper the panic produced by the seemingly irresistible German drive played havoc with the organization of guerrilla warfare. Many of the secretly selected leaders were swept along, willingly or unwillingly, in the retreat of the Red Army, while others were discovered and executed by the Germans. In a few places, however, small groups made good their escape to forest or swamp hide-outs. In the southern Ukraine one such group of about five hundred men, trained and directed by the Red Army, but largely composed of local Communist and NKVD officials, established a center of opposition in the swamps formed by the Dnieper south of Nikopol' (Nikopil').[3] This group was destroyed by the German forces in

[2] Oleksii Fedorov, *Podpol'nyi obkom deistvuet* (The Underground *Oblast* Committee in Action), literary editor Evg. Bosniatskii (Moscow: Voennoe Izdatel'stvo Ministerstva Vooruzhennykh Sil Soiuza SSR, 1950), pp. 12–14.

[3] Report of Feldpolizeidirektor at 444. Sicherungsdivision, November 5, 1941, NOKW 1519 (hereafter referred to as NOKW 1519).

6: Armstrong S-4 (no date) 1955 RD1 Ukraine RD1

previously described.[3] Under the conditions of German repression the nationalist parties could not afford to devote their limited strength to maintaining the initial advantage gained in these comparatively unimportant areas. By 1943, under the impact of rapidly growing Soviet partisan operations, nationalist activity seems to have ceased in Polessia west of the Dnieper.

South of Polessia runs a broad band of territory which falls into the natural vegetation region of the wooded steppe, i.e., a region of mixed prairie and woods. In contrast to the rather poor gray soil of most of Polessia, it is a land well suited for intensive agriculture, and as a result has supported for centuries the densest agricultural population of the East Ukraine.

As in the case of Polessia, the principal dividing line within the wooded steppe region is the Dnieper River. The area west of the river forms the heart of what have been known in Ukrainian history as the "Right Bank" lands. Kiev and the surrounding district had been acquired by the Russian tsar in the eighteenth century, but most of the area west of the Dnieper remained under Polish rule until 1792. The section closest to the river had had a considerable share in the Cossack tradition, but the more westerly sections, which were included in the historic provinces of Volhynia and Podolia, were deeply affected by the independent Cossack movement only during the height of Bohdan Khmel'nyts'kyi's career. This meant that serfdom had a longer and more oppressive history there than in the regions to the south and the east. While the peasants were thoroughly Ukrainian in language and customs, the cities included many Poles and Russians and an especially high percentage of Jews, who comprised from one third to one half of the urban population. This concentration of Jews, too, was a result of the historical background of the region; Poland had tolerated them, while the tsars had forbidden them to leave the Pale formed by the lands acquired in 1793 and later.[4]

Since the "Right Bank" was immediately contiguous to the nationalist bases in the West Ukraine, it was natural that the na-

[3] See Chapter V.

[4] Actually, the Pale included all the Ukraine in the nineteenth century, but Jews were less numerous on the "Left Bank."

6: Armstrong S-4 (no date) 1955 RD1 Ukraine RD1

German authorities; in a few other places, including the important towns of Lubny and Akhtyrka (Okhtyrka), editors continued their endeavors to stimulate national feeling.[29] Remarkably, the editor in the former town was a Russian who, after his pro-Ukrainian work brought him to the verge of arrest, was able to secure a new post as editor of a Russian-language paper in the Kursk *oblast*.[30] Most active of all this group, however, was the young editor of the Mirgorod paper, Michael Voskobiinyk, who pursued a line independent of the Nationalists yet modeled on the work of the *Nova Ukraïna* group.[31]

In general, nationalism in the "Left Bank" region under German occupation can be said to have been characterized by more influence of locally led and organized ecclesiastical and political bodies than the area to the west of the Dnieper. Moreover, it was marked by somewhat less friction between the Ukrainian and Russian elements and a willingness of some of the latter group to cooperate with the effort for Ukrainian nationalist revival. Probably the basic reason for this difference is the fact that both OUN groups were suppressed in this area before they could become very influential, and the nationalist structure which was built up afterwards was formed of persons who feared the extremist program of the integral nationalists. It may be also that the history of the region, with its lack of comparatively recent memories of oppression by Polish lords and the relative independence with which nationalist life could develop, created an atmosphere of self-confidence which militated against the more violent aspects of nationalist egoism.

To the south of the wooded steppe belt just discussed lies a broad region of more open steppe; in general the agricultural population of the area is considerably less dense than that of the region just described. The open plain with its very rich black soil and somewhat lesser rainfall lends itself to the cultivation of cereal crops which require smaller amounts of manpower, in contrast to the mixed sugar beet, dairy, potato, and grain agri-

[East of the Dnieper -- Analyst]

[29] Interviews 47, 50.
[30] Interview 47.
[31] *Ibid.*

the Vistula, Wislok, Poprad, the latter in Sub-Carpathian Russia, and finally in Hungary the High Tissa, a tributary of the Danube right up to the former Czecho-Rumanian border. Then this line cuts across Rumanian territory to the south of Tchernovitz (Cernauti) and follows the little river Reout, a tributary of the Dniester, right up to the latter.

Speaking geographically, that which we will decide to call the 'Ukraine' in this book has only one natural frontier: the southern inclines of the western part of the Carpathians. We do not speak of the coasts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov which officially forms its southern frontier, as this is above all the boundary of the Russian continent in its entirety.

Actually, in the north-eastern basin of the Danube rises the immense semicircle of the Carpathians, dominating the Hungarian Plain.

The summits of these mountains reach to more than two thousand metres and are covered by beech, oaks, ash, and some fir trees—typical European forests. They have changed much less than those of the Alps or the Sudeten ranges. Here, in the western part of the Carpathians, in Sub-Carpathian Russia, the forests are still in an almost virgin state. They are still inhabited by bears and wild boar, and are but authentic vestiges —even because of the fact of their primitive state—of the great forests of Central Europe.

The Uzok Range, which has seen the passage of so many invaders in the course of the centuries, has all the characteristics of the high mountains of Central Europe.

From the geo-physical point of view Sub-Carpathian Russia, which stretches along the southern slopes of the Carpathians, is still part of the hilly country, divided by ranges of mountains, with a temperate climate typical of the whole of Central Europe, which has

7:Bregy & Obolensky H-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RD1 Ukraine RD1

133 always favoured the formation of national groups, distinct from one another, and of States of relatively restricted size more or less dependent on their neighbours. Their development fills the whole history of Central Europe and they are only menaced by the German drive.

If we proceed in a north-easterly direction into Eastern Galicia, to the old 'Red Russia,' to-day *Malopolska* ('Little Poland' or 'Poland Minor'), we enter imperceptibly into the plains as the mountains become, little by little, hills which in turn are slowly obliterated. The hilly country becomes flat. Only the rivers, winding in the plain, interrupt here and there the monotony of the landscape. Advancing more and more towards the east, we always see the same plain without anything which resembles a natural limit, a plain which extends for hundreds and thousands of miles. We notice nothing at the frontier which separates Polish Galicia from the plain of Southern Russia (the Soviet Ukraine), but we also do not notice anything, when going towards the north, between the Ukraine and Russia proper.

Here we can go towards the ocean in the north and meet but rarely some chains of hills whose height is seldom more than three hundred metres.

Beyond the Carpathians, in the Ukraine, we enter the great plain which stretches, with only one interruption, the Urals, to Eastern Siberia.

132 The climate, too, changes almost imperceptibly and becomes a little colder and more continental towards the north and the east. However, the shroud of snow which covers the soil remains intact during three to five months in the whole of this immense part of the Continent, except, perhaps, along the shore of the Black Sea, where the climate is a little softer and where winter snow is rarer.

will occupy us particularly in order that we should be able to disentangle the historical factors which oppose her union with Russia, as well as those which tend to maintain this unity.

But before coming to this, let us try to consider one more geographical circumstance which underlines the unity of the Ukraine and Russia. This is the system of rivers. Here, too, the principles which apply to the Ukraine also apply to the whole of Russia. The whole plain is a region of great rivers, which flow from south to north, or from north to south. It is in the latter direction that the rivers of the Ukraine flow. Their waters are emptied into the Black Sea. Chief among them is the Dnieper, which, owing to its length of 2500 kilometres, occupies third place in Europe, after the Volga and the Danube. It crosses Ukrainian territory from north to south, dividing it into two almost equal parts, while its sources lie in the north, in Great Russia, beyond Ukrainian territory. Thus it forms a natural link between the north and the border regions of the Black Sea. And it is to this great mercantile route, represented by this river, that the Ukrainian territory owes in great measure the rôle it has played in Europe since the tenth century of our era.

The river, too, was a great route of colonization. The first agriculturalists followed the routes which nature herself had provided in the Ukraine as well as in the whole Russian Plain.

As we have seen, it is impossible, geographically speaking, to fix the frontiers of the Ukraine. But we have also said, that to determine the subject and to reach the aim of this book, we have to establish approximately the territory which we will call by this name. Having also accepted the Carpathians as the only geographical frontier, we shall keep to this with regard to the whole

7:Bregy & Obolensky h-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RD1 Ukraine RD1

000 It seems to us that the method of economic geography is the most suitable as giving our study the required direction. Thus, after having defined a geographical basis of the whole, we shall successively study the most important factors in the economic geography of the Ukraine in the following order:

1. Man. (Population, its density, its aptitudes, and its level of economic culture.)
2. Agricultural riches and their exploitation. (The soil, plants, forests, and breeding.)
3. Riches beneath the soil and their extraction, heavy industry and light industry.
4. Communications on land, river, and the sea.

The fact that economic geography is a science which deals with two essential factors, man and the soil, whose relative importance varies in different regions and different epochs, but which is determined by the existence of man on the land, forces us to choose man as the first subject of our study.

The other factors will follow it in the order of their exploitation by man; the exploitation of the surface soil, of the subsoil, and finally the transformation of the products of this exploitation—industry.

As to the means of communication, we shall leave them to the end because they assure the distribution and the exchange of the products of the soil and of the subsoil, reflect the sites of industry, and, being able to create a new economic geography of the land, appear as the last link of the economic system.

Therefore the geography of the Ukraine appears to be relatively simple.

133 The whole territory has approximately the same altitude. Therefore its profile is uniform. Its geological origins are absolutely identical. The river system is poor and equally uniform; the three important rivers,

7:Bregy & Obolensky H-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RD1 Ukraine RD1

the Dnieper, the Boug, and the Dniester, all flow from north to south, to empty into the Black Sea. /33

The climate is similar on the whole territory, with an average 'multi-annual' temperature slightly higher in the south and south-east, due to the great heat of the months of July and August in these parts, with the exception of a narrow border of the Black Sea, between Odessa and the isthmus of Perekop, where the winter and the autumn are very mild, which explains the presence in this region of such plants as cotton (a plant with a long period of growth) and trees so delicate as those of the peach. /32

On the whole territory of the Ukraine the month during which the average temperature is always the highest (20 degrees C.) is July, and that during which it is lowest (minus 4·5 degrees C.) is January.

The average rainfall varies between 25 and 80 centimetres per annum, with the dampest climate in the north-western part. Everywhere there is more rain during the summer.

This uniformity of the whole, which makes the task of geographical description an easy one, seems at first sight to make the division of the Ukrainian territory into different zones impossible, while giving each zone some original characteristics in the sphere of economic geography.

Nevertheless, when going deeper into an analysis of the question, we establish a division of the Ukraine into two agro-climatic zones. /31

This separation is determined by climatic and agrarian factors. There are differences of rainfall, of the soil, and of flora.

The border of these two zones begins at the western frontier of the Ukraine, on the 48th degree latitude north, and rises in an almost straight line up to the

7:Bregy & Obolensky H-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RD1 Ukraine RD1

On the contrary, in Zone 2 the absence of trees, the drier climate, the dusty soil, and the isolated farms make the landscape more severe and more similar to the barren table-land of Northern Castile. Only the immensity of the cornfields with their golden ears introduces a lyrical note, vision-like, into this flat and treeless country. The villages of the Steppe are not very picturesque and look mostly like colonies in which the spirit of calculation dominates over the care of beauty. The habitations here are more modern, bigger, and better planned. The thatch here gives place to tiles and to corrugated iron. On the other hand, the poor people, deprived of wood, live in primitive hovels built of clay.

In the extreme north, in the forest region with its sandy soil, the picturesque landscapes gradually disappear to resume the severe and sad monotony of the White Russian country-side.

The Ukrainian is very adaptable to civilization, that is to say to the improvement of everyday life, and very quickly adopts all practical inventions, without any spirit of routine.

The Ukraine is the most literate part of Russia. Even Soviet statistics, which cannot be assumed to be well disposed to the Tsarist regime, show that the percentage of the generation which was of a school age in 1914, which could read and write was, in 1923, 90 per cent in the towns and 73 per cent in the country, which, by the way, is a vigorous reply to the generally accepted opinion that in the pre-war Russian Empire the population stagnated in a condition of utter ignorance.

In the other parts of European Russia the percentage for the same generation was respectively 82 per cent in the towns and 57 per cent in the country-side.

It seems to us opportune to give an idea of the Ukraine

[See category 116, pp. 139-140. --- Analyst]

6: Armstrong 'S-4 (no date) 1955 RD1 Ukraine RD1

culture of the more northern region. The reasons for the smaller farm population are historical rather than purely economic, however. Most of the area was fully settled many generations later than the more northern regions, for it was the principal area of conflict of the Slavic settlers moving down from the north and the Tatar warriors based on the Crimea. The major instrument of colonization was the Cossack fortress settlement or *sich*. In the mid-seventeenth century the Cossacks accepted the suzerainty of the Orthodox tsar, but it was only in the late eighteenth century, after the Russian conquest of the Crimean Tatars, that the steppe was fully opened to peaceful development. These new lands, frequently called "Southern Russia," came to include considerable bodies of non-Ukrainian settlers, mostly Russians, but also large numbers of Germans and Serbs. In 1917 the Provisional Government in Petrograd strongly rejected demands of the Ukrainian Rada for the extension of its authority to the *gubernii as* of Kharkov, Ekaterinoslav, Kherson, and Taurida, the last three corresponding roughly to the southern steppe region, since it felt they were not Ukrainian in character.[82]

The northern section of the steppe region, comprising the northern halves of the *Generalbezirke* Nikolaev and Dniepropetrovsk, did contain a preponderantly Ukrainian peasantry. The presence of two very important natural resources—the iron mines of Krivoi Rog and the water power of the Dnieper rapids—had led to rapid industrialization of this area during the period of the Soviet Five Year Plans, with a consequent large increase in the urban population. According to the census of 1939 five of the fifteen Ukrainian cities of over one hundred thousand population lay in this region.[83] At the start of the period of industrialization, in 1926, the city population was very largely non-Ukrainian. For example, Ukrainians formed less than half the total in Kirovograd (then Zinovevsk), Jews being the next largest ethnic group, closely followed by Russians.[84] In Dniepropetrovsk and Zaporozh'e the

[82] John S. Reshetar, *The Ukrainian Revolution, 1917–1920: A Study in Nationalism* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1952), pp. 72–73.

[83] Frank Lorimer, *The Population of the Soviet Union: History and Prospects* (Geneva: League of Nations, 1946), pp. 250–53.

[84] Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Tsentralnoe Statisticheskoe Upravlenie, *Recensement de la Population de l'URSS*, XIII (Moscow, 1929), 13–14.

9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

131 *Krai*), Little Russia (*Malorossiya*), and part of South or New Russia (*Novorossiya*). The South-west Territory is formed by the three Governments (*gubernii*) of Volhynia (area, 27,700 square miles), Podolia (16,219 square miles), and Kiev (19,686 square miles); Little Russia by those of Chernigov (20,233 square miles), Poltava (19,265 square miles), and Kharkov (21,035 square miles); and New Russia contains the Governments of Yekaterinoslav (24,478 square miles), Kherson (27,337 square miles), and Taurida (23,312 square miles, of which 9,704 belong to the Crimea). It should be noted that the Ukraine by this definition excludes Bessarabia, the Don Cossacks' Territory, and the Crimea, all of which are included in New Russia.

131 101 The Ukraine thus occupies an area of more than 190,000 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Governments of Voronezh, Kursk, Orel, Smolensk, Mohilev, Minsk and Grodno; on the west by the recently created Russian Polish Government of Cholm, Eastern Galicia, and Bessarabia; on the south by the Black Sea, the Crimea, and the Sea of Azov; on the east by the Don Cossacks' Territory.

Except on the west and in the south the boundaries can hardly be said to coincide with natural divisions. Nor are they completely ethnographical, for the ethnographical area extends into Kursk, Voronezh, Grodno, Minsk, Cholm, and Eastern Galicia.

(2) Surface, Coast, and River System

Surface

133 The Ukraine falls naturally into three divisions: Polyesia in the north, the Black Sea plateau, extending from the western boundary to the Dnieper, and Little Russia on the left bank of the Dnieper.

Polyesia (of which only the southern part actually falls within the boundaries of the Ukraine as claimed by the Little Russians) occupies primarily the basin of the Pripet, a right-bank tributary of the Dnieper. The central portion consists of an almost unbroken

9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

series of marshes, generally known as the Pinsk marshes, which form one of the most impassable, unfertile, and unhealthy areas in Russia. There is, however, higher ground both to the north and south of the marsh region. In the south there are the Volhynian Heights, running from Cholm (in Russian Poland) through Lutsk, Rovno, and Dubno to Novograd Volynsk, a plateau rising to a height of over 1,000 ft. near Dubno. The high country is well wooded and suitable for agriculture.

The *Black Sea plateau* falls into four sections. The first or northern section is practically equivalent to the southern part of Volhynia. The highest point (over 1,200 ft.) occurs at Krzemenietz, from which the northern edge of the plateau extends east at a lesser elevation, passing north of Staro Konstantinov to Berdichev and Kiev.

The second section is that of the area between the Southern Bug and the Dniester, occupying a large part of Podolia. This section consists of a high plateau gradually declining from north-west to south-east, and includes along the western frontier the Miodobory Hills, running in a southerly direction into Bessarabia. The highest point is in the Proskurov district, 1,186 ft., and in this region there are also some marshes. Over the whole section are scattered numerous deep valleys, intersected by rapidly flowing watercourses at the base of well-wooded hills. The southern boundary of this section is formed by the Rivers Kedyma and Yagorlik, tributaries of the Bug and Dniester respectively.

From this river line the third or maritime section of the Black Sea plateau extends down to the Black Sea. This section contains various small rivers flowing roughly parallel to each other in a south-westerly direction, such as the Tiligul and the Kuyalnik.

The fourth or Zaporozhki section is the largest of the four. Its northern part is divided into two by the River Sinyukha, a tributary of the Bug. The western half rises to 800 ft., the eastern to 750 ft. Towards

9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

133 the north this plateau slopes down into the plains of Polyesia around the Pripet, Irpen, and Teterev; on the west it is bounded by the Southern Bug; on the east by the Dnieper. The southern part of the section, in which the plateau levels down to 300 ft., assumes the uniform shape of flat steppes, and the rivers flow for the most part sluggishly in shallow, extensive, marshy valleys, rich in ponds.

Little Russia is a continuation of the heights in the Governments of Smolensk, Orel, and Kursk, and in general slopes from the north-east to the south-west. The Governments of Chernigov and Poltava form undulating plains, of which the former varies from 750 ft. in the north to 370–600 ft. in the south, and the latter has a somewhat lower altitude. The Government of Kharkov in general is a table-land with an elevation of 300–400 ft., though heights of over 850 ft. are reached. It is divided into two by the valley of the Northern Donets. Marshes abound in all parts of this section except in the Government of Kharkov. The rivers flow in deeply excavated valleys, of which the right banks have the appearance of hilly tracts, while low plains extend along the left.

Coast

The Ukrainian coast, though small in extent, is of the very greatest importance, not only to the Ukraine but to the whole of Russia. It forms an outlet for a vast amount of commerce, a great deal of which is dealt with by the port of Odessa.

A very characteristic feature of this part of the Black Sea coast is the existence of *limans*. These *limans*, which are similar in formation to the Venetian Lido and to the *haffs* of the Baltic coast, consist of small or large inlets at the mouth of a river, e. g. the Dnieper and the Bug, separated from the main body of the sea by a strip of land (*peresyp*) with a narrow entrance. The shore is in places fairly high, but is everywhere easily disintegrated by the action of the weather.

9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

River System

The Ukraine as a whole consists of portions of the basins of the Rivers Dnieper (with its tributary the Pripet), Dniester, Bug, and Donets, the last named being the largest affluent of the Don. 133

The *Dnieper*, which rises in the Government of Smolensk, has a total length of about 1,410 miles, and drains an area of 202,140 square miles. It first touches Ukrainian territory at Loyev on the western border of Chernigov, and thence flows in a south-easterly direction to Yekaterinoslav, in a shifting channel which varies greatly in depth and breadth. At Yekaterinoslav the river turns south and then south-west, forming a succession of rapids, so that navigation in this part is only possible when the river is in flood. Artificial canals enable small vessels to proceed when there is low water in the channel. The Dnieper enters the Black Sea below the town of Kherson, by a *liman*, into which the Bug also discharges. 133 487 [502]

The chief tributaries of the Dnieper are: on the right bank, going from north to south, the Berezina, which runs through the Government of Minsk; the Pripet, with its many affluents, among them being the Styr and the Strumen, all of which overflow their banks and help to form the system of marshes which is more fully described in *Russian Poland*, No. 44 of this series (p. 15), and the Ingulets, which flows a little above Kherson into the Dnieper near its outlet to the Black Sea. 133

On the left bank the chief tributaries are the Sosh; the Desna, which flows through Chernigov into the Dnieper just above Kiev; and the Samara, which joins the river at Yekaterinoslav.

There is a regular service of passenger steamers on the Dnieper both above and below the rapids, and also along the Pripet as far as Pinsk. [505]

The *Dniester* rises in Austrian Galicia, and only the last 515 miles of its course, with a drainage area of 16,500 square miles, belong to Russian territory. It reaches the Ukraine provinces near Kamenets Podolsk,

9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

●133 and then forms the frontier line between the Governments of Podolia and Kherson and the neighbouring province of Bessarabia. It receives no very important tributaries in the Ukraine, though there is a fair number of smaller ones. Navigation is interrupted by the [502] Yampol rapids. For ordinary river craft an artificial canal affords a passage here, but steamboats cannot pass upstream. The depth of the water has lately been increased by a more scientific system of regulation.

The *Bug* rises in Russian Poland and reaches the Ukraine near Vlodava, to the north-west of Volhynia. It forms for some distance the boundary between the Ukraine and Russian Poland, and then flows through Austrian Galicia into the Ukraine at Volochysk. Its winding course follows a south-easterly direction, entering the Black Sea by a *liman*.

The chief tributaries of the Bug within the Ukraine provinces are, on the right bank, the Kedyma and the Chichekleya; and on the left bank the Ingul.

The *Donets* rises in the Government of Kursk, and enters the Ukraine to the north of Kharkov. It then flows to the south-east, leaving the Ukraine at the extreme north-eastern corner of Yekaterinoslav.

(3) Climate

132 Climatic statistics should generally be regarded as approximate.

The following recent figures are available for the South-west Territory—Tarnopol, although actually in Galicia, being taken as typical of the south-west of Volhynia, Berdichev of the south-east of Volhynia and the central part of the Government of Kiev, and Volkovints and Kamenets Podolsk of the Government of Podolia:

	Average Temperature (Fahrenheit).		
	January.	*July.*	*Year.*
Tarnopol . . .	22·5°	66·0°	44·1°
Berdichev . . .	22·3°	65·5°	45·0°
Volkovints . . .	20·5°	65·9°	44·4°
Kamenets Podolsk .	26·1°	68·5°	47·5°

in the Government of Yekaterinoslav in the Donets coal and iron region. 491

The second-class roads, described as 'paved throughout', have a mileage of 953. They are under the care of the *zemstvos*, but the expenditure bestowed upon them is small.

The third class of roads, described as 'soil' roads, has by far the greatest mileage, their length being 54,148 miles. In no country of western Europe would they be classed as roads, being merely tracks from point to point, worn by the traffic of the district. They are under the care of the *mirs*, or communes, whose budgets admit of the expenditure of very small sums on their upkeep.

As other means of communication are also few and unsatisfactory, the lack of good roads would be a fatal drawback to any development of the country, were it not for the fact that during three or four months of the year traffic by sledge is almost everywhere possible without special regard to the existence of a road or even a track. As during this period agricultural operations are suspended, an opportunity is afforded of transporting a vast quantity of goods. 491 489

(*b*) *Rivers and Canals*

The rivers of the Ukraine include the middle and lower courses of two large rivers, the Dnieper and the Dniester. Both are navigable for long distances, and should be of great importance as means of communication. Each, however, suffers from a serious natural defect which much curtails its usefulness, and to remedy which no adequate measures have been taken. 487 [133]

For purposes of navigation the river *Dnieper* falls into two sections known as 'above the rapids' and 'below the rapids'. Between Yekaterinoslav and Alexandrovsk are ten rapids, which are very dangerous and completely prevent navigation. Timber rafts are floated down, but the occupation of steering them is considered most hazardous and is entrusted to local pilots specially trained. Some attempt at improving

161 Caucasian foreland. (7) This corresponds roughly

7. Kubyietych: The Distribution of Population in the Ukraine, page 11.

to the density of population in the Balkan countries.

• 133 The geographers have investigated the surface of the Ukrainian provinces and found that only 1.5% of the entire surface is more than 1000 meters high, barely 3.5% over 500 meters and 68.5% between 100 and 300 meters. Scarcely 1% of the Ukrainian population live in actual mountains, and surely more than half of all Ukrainians have never seen any mountains. (8)

8. Kubyievych: The Geography of the Ukrainian and the Bordering Areas, page 65.

132 For decades scholars studied the climate, measured precipitation, heat and cold, and did not forget to check from what direction the wind blows. When they had made sufficient investigations, they established the fact that the Ukraine has an "oak climate", specifically in the damp, moderately cold northern and central Ukraine. Adjacent to this in the south is the "dry climate" zone with little precipitation, where there is less rain the farther southeast one goes. Moreover, geographers feel that it is significant that the Ukraine, along with the Carpathians, the Yaila Mountains in the Crimea, and the Caucasus have a mountain climate and that the southern shore of the Crimean Peninsula and the eastern coast of the Black Sea have a Mediterranean climate. Whereas the Ukrainians of the north would gladly renounce some of the 600 millimeters and more of precipitation which annually flood their fields, those of the south call upon God and all the spirits to send them a little more than their 200 millimeters of rain. But it need

[volhynia]

361 tossed down on the land, without any relationship to it. "The absence of public buildings alone had
[345] a depressive effect. These wooden huts on a slope, supported by stakes as though by high stilts, seemed merely to have been set down as chance would have it, less secure and permanent than nomad tents which the next day perhaps might already be taken down again. It scarcely seemed worthwhile to lay out a few roadways provisionally. For the rest, there was not a trace of a city plan, of a systematizing, architectural hand. Everything seemed temporary and unfinished, simply amassed, never shaped. The expression "shanty town" applied in a special /18/ sense to these places. Our criteria of beautifully compact city plans do not apply. Never concentrated within the area most difficult to attack, never held together by walls and moats, these Russian clusters of houses and courtyards which can scarcely be called cities any more, gradually become lost in the distance, without shape or outline: mirror images of the landscape that bears them, of the language that echoes in them, of the way of thinking of the people they house." (9)

9. Tintrup: War in the Ukraine, pages 23 and 24.

101 If you would now turn east in the direction
361 of Kiyev, you would come through numerous rambling
563 villages with streets. They contain attractive farms where until recently you would have been warmly welcomed with German sounds. The Volhynia
101 Germans lived here. But you continue northward until the Volhynia plateau with a gradual incline
●133 sinks into the Polesian swamps. You avoid this marsh land by turning northeast, and thus come to the extreme northwest tip of the Ukrainian area of settlement, Podlakhia, whose waters flow toward the Baltic. The primeval forests of Bila Vesha are gloomy, but even more gruesome are the deep

101 swamps of Polesia. Faggot and fascine paths lead
133 you from village to village, from settlement to settlement. If you visit this swamp land which extends almost to the central Russian plain and is about at large as Hungary including Carpatho-Ukraine, in spring during the time of thaws or during the floods of early summer, people will row you in a boat to their neighbor's. For at these times the rivers creeping in countless bends through lakes, ponds and tributaries of this country, which is only 170 meters above sea level, flood their banks for many weeks, even months. This landscape is unutterably sad, and, it has deprived of laughter the few people it scantily nourishes with fish, potatoes and oats. Polesia is a land of spooks [136] without equal, where, across the bog through which elk and bison, sure-footed, make their way, there [137] rises the "pillared hall of centuries-old oaks, lindens, aspens, ash trees, firs, spruces and pines." /19/ The sun rarely shines into this twilight where at night there are mysterious will-o'-the-wisps in this world of mold. Deathly silence prevails in this accursed land which even the birds avoid. You are standing on the border of the Soviet Union.

133 Descending the navigable Pripyat, and traveling eastward halfway to the central Russian plain, you reach, friend, the Dniepr, which comes from the north. You have come to the sacred river of the Ukrainians. They chant its praises in countless songs. This third largest river of Europe flows 2100 kilometers until, exhausted, it empties into the Black Sea. If it happens to be flood time, you will not be able to see from one bank to the other, the river rises to such an extent. It gets to be six, eight, even ten kilometers wide. Herodotus already compared it with the Nile.

505 If you now sail south[1] on a Dniepr steamer you will reach Kiyev. Do not be surprised at the numerous vessels which you meet on the river, for

[1] [From the confluence of the Dniepr and the Pripyat - Analyst]

505 the mercantile fleet which it carried was, even long before the war, as large as the total mercantile tonnage of the Austro-Hungarian fleet.

346 Even from far off you will see on the hills of the city lying on the right bank the strange cupolas of the Byzantine churches and monasteries. Kiyev was formerly the "Rome of the East", and even today it is the "mother of all Russian cities". Hundreds of thousands of devout pilgrims

788 annually visited the famous cave monastery of Pecherska Lavra, the cathedral of St. Sophia, the Golden Gate and other sacred spots.[1]

• 133 The churning steamer which you again board in the sprawling, pounding and shrieking harbor section[1] will take you farther downstream. On the west bank the high plateau of the Dniepr Plain rises steeply. If you should wander over this undulating hill country with its fields of wheat and sugar beets, you would see everywhere the traces of Ukraine's past: mighty grave mounds of nomad chieftains, and embankments with which in early times the Ukrainian people protected themselves against Asiatic brigands. /20/ To the left of the stream, in the east, you see nothing but wild thickets of reeds, dense, impenetrable green meadows behind which the Dniepr Plain is hidden.

361 You would find villages there[2] which have as many inhabitants as a medium-sized city and which equal a metropolis in surface area. However, they have remained villages in which peasants live on their homesteads; it is almost a day's journey to their fields. Khar'kov, a small Cossack hamlet in the seventeenth century, and today the second largest city of the Ukraine, is situated on the eastern edge of this plain.

133 In Dniepropetrovsk where formerly the rapids began, you turn eastward, friend, and now reach the steppes. The earth which is swept bare by the eternal east wind and by the dust storms, is completely naked as soon as you ascend the Donets

[1] [i.e. In Kiev – Analyst]
[2] [i.e. In the Dniepr Plain – Analyst]

133 Plain where lie the coal districts of the Ukraine. The more bleak and unfriendly this industrial country with its black chimneys appears to you, the friendlier the quiet, pale yellow Donets beckons yonder, with its broad, green valley and the white chalk precipices crowned by dark green forests. Now your journey takes you south to the Sea of Azov, across the mouth of the Don to the Caucasian foothills. Immeasurable fields of sun-
101 flowers accompany you into this "second Ukraine".
133 Here you feel the refreshing breath of the snowy mountains of the Caucasus. You are on the shores of the Argonauts. Virile and full of strength is this untouched land at the foot of the Elbrus. Like the mountains, the people, too, are giants. You have before you the descendants of the flower of the Ukrainian people, of the Zaporogian Cossacks who were settled here by Catherine II.

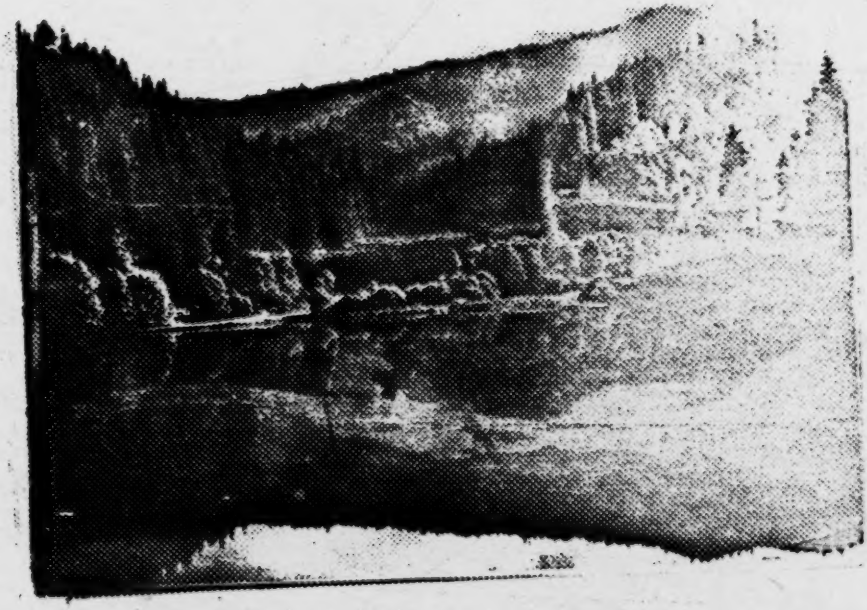
137 [133] And now turn west, start homeward! The way leads across the Pontic Plain which extends north of the Black Sea as far as the Danube. On this "racial meadow" you will look in vain for the much-praised wild uncultivated steppe. You are in the land of Taras Bulba. Gogol, a Ukrainian, erected an imperishable monument to the bold Cossack in his tale. /21/ In those days the grass and shrubs of the steppe grew taller than a man, but today you will find only the knee-high herbs of the temporarily fallow fields, and here and there a thicket of wild cherries, mahaleb and thistles. Perhaps you will also come to one of those meadows that have become rare, which in a brief whiff of spring changes its color like a rich woman her clothes, wrapping itself in silver gray during the summer, and adorning itself in moss-green in autumn, when rain finally quenches the cracked earth. Smooth
133 and flat, amorphous as a calm sea, the Pontic Steppe stretches out before you. Burial mounds as
764 large as houses, called kurgany, point the way to the Dniestr. What ghastly secrets may they not

[i.e. the Caucasian foothills — Analyst]

133

In the heart of the Carpathian mountains

Lake in the Carpathian forests



23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine RD1

CHAPTER 28

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Capital, Kiev (Kiyev); area, 222,600, population, 40,500,000

THE UKRAINIAN SSR, or Ukraine, is in second place among the union republics from the point of view of population and economic potentials. The Ukraine is situated in the southwestern portion of the East European lowland, on the shores of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea, and extends westward beyond the Carpathian Mountains to the Tisza River.

GENERAL SURVEY

THE PREDOMINANT LOWLAND CHARACTER of the region is interrupted here and there by some low elevations, such as the Donets ridge in the southeast, the Volyn'-Podolian plateau in the west, and the intervening Dnieper ridge. The Carpathians, with their foothills to the north, constitute the only mountainous section of the Ukraine. Five distinct physical regions can be distinguished: (1) the Poles'ye, a forested zone in the north; (2) the wooded steppe in the center; (3) the steppe proper in the south; (4) the Carpathian foothills in the west; and (5) the Carpathians and the Transcarpathian Ukraine.

The Poles'ye in the north and the northwest forms a southern extension of the extensive Poles'ye lowland which constitutes the basic relief form of the adjoining Belorussian SSR. It is a low sandy and forested expanse, distinguished by considerable swampiness (Pripet Marshes). The woods are a mixture of deciduous and evergreen types. Podsols and marshy ground constitute the principal soil forms. The Poles'ye is drained by the lower course of two principal affluents of the Dnieper: the Pripet (or Pripyat'), on the right, and the Desna, on the left.

The wooded steppe on the right bank of the Dnieper is formed by the Volyn'-Podolian plateau. This upland is highest in the northwest and slopes gradually toward the east and the southeast. It has crystalline rock formations covered by recent sediments (sand, clay, and limestone)

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine KD1

SU
133*
U
133

along the watersheds and a top layer of loess. The rivers in this area frequently flow through canyon-like gorges, and rapids are commonly obstacles to navigation. Ravines and gullies are typical relief features. In the northwest, broad-leaved trees abound. The remainder of the region has black-earth steppe. The southeastern edge of the upland, the so-called Dnieper ridge, continues beyond the Dnieper to form the Azov uplands, extending northeastward along the coast of the Sea of Azov.

The left bank portion of the wooded steppe zone is formed by the Dnieper lowland, which slopes from the Central Russian upland southwestward to the Dnieper River. It is drained by several important left affluents of the Dnieper, among them the Sula, the Psel, and the Vorskla rivers. The last outspurs of the Central Russian upland penetrate into this area from the northeast. The uniformity of the loess-covered plain is broken by a large number of small shallow depressions, which become filled with water during the spring thaw. The northern portion of the plain was once covered by glaciers, which left moraine sediments, now covered with loess, and large expanses of sand sediments. The rivers generally have a slow current and are used for lumber drives. They overflow in the spring, inundating large areas, but become shallow during the summer. Woods are found only in the river valleys, while cultivated steppes predominate along the watersheds.

The Black Sea lowland along the shores of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov constitutes a true steppe form. It is drained by the lower courses of the Dnieper, the Southern Bug, and the Dniester, and a large number of smaller, partly intermittent, streams. The coast is characterized by cliffs, which are gradually being washed out by the action of the sea, and by the so-called limans, coastal lagoons which were formed in recent geologic times by the flooding of the lower river valleys and are separated by narrow sandspits, called *kosa*, from the open sea. The flatness of the plain is marred by many ravines, the remains of former river valleys, and by mound-like elevations which were erected by the ancient inhabitants of the steppe. The Donets ridge, which rises to 1,184 feet, also lies in the steppe zone, in the extreme east of the Ukrainian SSR. It consists of the remains of an old deeply eroded and weathered upland, which now appears only as a hilly plateau of sandstone, clayey schists, and limestone. The valleys of rivers and many ravines cut deeply into the surface of the area. Along its northern edge the plateau forms picturesque chalk cliffs on the Northern Donets River.

The Carpathian foothills extend from the Volyn'-Podolian upland in

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine KDL

the east to the Carpathians in the west. They are drained by the Dniester River and its affluents, which flow in narrow, convoluted river valleys through picturesque wooded depressions. The watersheds, devoid of forests, constitute the basic cultivated areas; they are under wheat, corn, and tobacco. Black earth prevails in all these lowland sections of the Ukraine.

The Carpathians extend through the Ukrainian SSR over a distance of about 150 miles. They constitute a number of ranges, rising gradually toward the southeast, where they reach an elevation of more than 6,600 feet, with passes at points up to 3,000 feet above sea-level. The least accessible section of the mountains lies in Northern Bukovina (Chernovtsy Oblast). The Ukrainian Carpathians form a part of the wooded section of the mountain range. They are covered with deciduous trees on the lower slopes and with evergreens in the upper reaches. The chief rock formations are sandstone and schists with occasional volcanic intrusives. Above 5,000 feet, mountain meadow pastures prevail. There is no permanent snow cover. Isolated snow fields remain until June and reappear in September. Considerable rainfall (40 to 60 inches a year) feeds such important rivers as the Tisza, which flows southwestward, the Dniester, and the Prut, which descend the eastern slopes. In general, the Carpathians are easily accessible and are crossed by highways and rail lines.

The Transcarpathian Ukraine (until 1945 part of Czechoslovakia) lies on the southern slopes of the Carpathians and extends onto the Hungarian lowland, where it is bounded by the Tisza River in the south.

The Dnieper is the most important Ukrainian river. It rises in Smolensk Oblast, outside the Ukrainian SSR. Below Kiev it forms many islands and braided branches in its course. Until the construction of the Dnieper hydroelectric station (*Dneproges*), the rapids in the vicinity of Zaporozh'ye interfered with continuous navigation. Since the completion of the dam and the flooding of the rapids above the dam, the entire river has become navigable. The other important rivers of the Ukraine, the Dniester, the Southern Bug, and the Northern Donets (an affluent of the Don), are all less suitable for navigation.

Compared with the other regions of the European part of the USSR, the Ukraine has a rather temperate climate, although colder and more continental in the eastern part. Thaws occur frequently during the winter, summers are hot, especially in the south, while autumn is dry and continuously clear. Spring arrives early in the west and, together with

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine RV1

Kiev Oblast

Area, 15,900, population, 3,500,000

Kiev Oblast lies in the Dnieper lowland (in the north) and in the Volyn'-Podolian upland (in the south). It is drained by the Dnieper and its right affluents, the Teterev and the Ros' rivers. In the northern section, which penetrates into the forested Poles'ye, the growing of flax, potatoes, and buckwheat are important. The rest of the oblast falls within the sugar economy. Truck produce in the Kiev metropoljtan area and orchards in the south, near Uman', and the southeast, near Smela, are important. Peat is worked mainly northwest of Kiev and near Smela, while lignite comes from Yurkovka near Zvenigorodka. Sugar mills abound throughout the center and the south; flour milling and distilling are other rural industries.

Kiev, the capital of the Ukrainian SSR since 1934, was the third largest city of the USSR on the eve of the Second World War. Situated on the middle course of the Dnieper River, below the mouths of its two large affluents, the Pripet and the Desna, Kiev occupies a central location at the junction of the river, four rail trunk lines, and many highways. An ancient city and until the middle 13th century the capital of Kievan Russia, Kiev is the site of many historical relics and monuments. An early commercial and food-processing center, it developed into an industrial point of first rank under the Soviet regime. Its heavy industries produce machine tools, machines, motors, aircraft parts, boilers, agricultural implements, motorcycles, and bicycles, as well as equipment for chemical, sugar, and tanning industries. There are electrical (radios and telephones), textile, and food industries. A number of major enterprises, including lumber mills, a meat-packing plant, a rubber-goods factory, and railway-car works are located in the left-bank industrial suburb of Darnitsa. Shipyards produce vessels for the Dnieper River traffic. A natural-gas pipe line for industrial and domestic use was laid in the post-war period from Dashava.

Other major industrial centers of the oblast are Belaya Tserkov', south of Kiev, Uman' in the far south, and Smela and Cherkassy on the Dnieper in the southeast. They are primarily food-processing centers, with sugar and flour mills and metal, clothing, and leather industries.

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine R01

Vinnitsa Oblast

Area, 10,600, population, 2,800,000

Vinnitsa Oblast lies in the Volyn'-Podolian upland, bounded in the southwest by the Dniester River and drained by the Southern Bug River. In addition to the basic sugar-beet and wheat crops, fruits, tobacco, and corn are raised near the Dniester River. Viticulture is possible in the deep, protected valleys of the southwest. The oblast is one of the foremost sugar producers of the Ukraine.

Vinnitsa, on the Southern Bug, has an industry closely connected with the agricultural economy. It processes the local products (sugar, flour, meat, alcohol) and has machine repair shops and a superphosphate plant.

Mogilev-Podol'skiy, on the Dniester in the south, has food-canning, lumber, and metalworking industries.

Kamenets-Podol'skiy Oblast

Area, 8,000, population, 1,800,000

Kamenets-Podol'skiy Oblast is also located in the Volyn'-Podolian upland, north of the Dniester River. It lies at the western end of the sugar region and also engages in the raising of fruits, tobacco, and corn near the Dniester River. Phosphorite and peat deposits are worked. In the northern forest belt, lumbering, paper milling, and ceramics are the chief occupations.

Proskurov, the capital, is a rail center on the upper Southern Bug River. It has food industries (flour milling and sugar refining), machine shops, and clothing and furniture plants.

Other industrial points are Kamenets-Podol'skiy near the Dniester, with fruit canneries, meat-packing and clothing industries, and Shepetovka, a rail center in the forest area, with sawmills, and meat-packing and railroad shops.

THE LEFT-BANK WOODED STEPPE

THE LEFT-BANK WOODED STEPPE includes the oblasts of Poltava, Sumy, and Khar'kov and represents a transition region between the right-bank Ukraine in the west and the Central Black-Earth Region of the Russian SFSR in the east. Although sugar beets continue to form a major crop, the emphasis is placed to a greater extent on grain crops, among which winter and spring wheat are most important. Potatoes and

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Ukraine RD1

tobacco, in the north, and sunflowers and melons, in the south, are also raised. Hog raising forms the basis of a major meat-packing industry. Machinery industries are located chiefly in Khar'kov.

Khar'kov Oblast

Area, 12,000, population, 2,500,000

Khar'kov Oblast lies in the southwestern outspurs of the Central Russian upland and is drained by the Northern Donets and the upper Orel' and the lower Oskol rivers. Sugar beets predominate in the north, wheat and sunflowers in the south, and truck produce and orchards in the Khar'kov metropolitan area. Rural industry is based chiefly on the processing of the agricultural products and engages in sugar refining, flour milling, sunflower-oil extraction, distilling, and dairying. The oblast possesses a good rail network on the route from the Donets Basin to Moscow.

Khar'kov, the capital of the Ukraine until 1934, is its second city and its foremost machine-construction center. Situated at the junction of six rail lines at the gates to the Donets Basin and Krivoy Rog industrial areas, it dates from the seventeenth century and developed rapidly after the industrialization of the southern Ukraine in the late nineteenth century. Its impressive array of products includes tractors, turbine generators, coal-mining and oil-drilling equipment, electrical goods, diesel motors, ball bearings, machine tools, harvester combines, locomotives, and bicycles. It also has light and food industries.

Izyum, on the Northern Donets, southeast of Khar'kov, has metalworking, ceramic, and sawmilling industries.

Kupyansk, a major rail center east of Khar'kov, engages in machine construction, metalworking, and lumber and sugar milling.

Poltava Oblast

Area, 13,200, population, 2,200,000

Poltava Oblast, in the Dnieper lowland, is bounded on the southwest by the Dnieper River and drained by its left affluents, the Sula, the Psel, and the Vorskla. It grows chiefly sugar beets and wheat, as well as other grains, hemp, mint, sunflowers, and corn. Sugar refining and flour milling are the main rural industries.

Poltava, a four-way rail junction on the Vorskla River, is a processing center for a rich sugar and wheat region. It has locomotive repair shops, flour mills, meat-packing plants, and oil presses. Just northeast is the

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine R01

site of the battle of Poltava (1709), which marked the decisive defeat of the Swedes under Charles XII by Peter the Great.

Kremenchug, a lumber- and grain-trading point on the Dnieper, has light and food industries and produces road-construction machines. Its right-bank suburb, Kryukov, has large railway-car works.

Sumy Oblast

Area, 9,400, population, 1,700,000

Sumy Oblast, lies in the western outliers of the Central Russian upland and is drained by the upper Vorskla, the Psel, the Sula, and the Seym rivers. Basic crop combinations are sugar beets and wheat in the south, and hemp and wheat in the north. Also grown in the north are potatoes and buckwheat; in the south, tobacco and mint. Sugar refining, flour milling, and hemp retting are the chief industries. An oil field is under development near Romny.

Sumy is a sugar-refining center on the Psel River; it produces also agricultural machines, chemical fertilizer, and woolens.

Other industrial cities are Konotop, a rail junction with machine shops and food industries, and Shostka, which produces chemicals and photographic film.

DONETS BASIN

The Donets Basin, which includes the oblasts of Voroshilovgrad and Stalino, is the most heavily industrialized section of the Ukraine and one of the principal industrial bases of the USSR. The impressive industrial development of the district is the result of the combination of local coal production and the iron-ore imports from the Krivoy Rog area, which forms the basis of the large-scale metallurgical industry. Nearly all the major mills concentrated in the Donbas pass through a full cycle of metallurgical production; they had a prewar capacity of 6 million tons of pig iron, 5½ million tons of ingot steel, and 3 million tons of rolled metal. The coking process, which is essential for the iron and steel industry, also feeds the basic chemical industries producing nitrate fertilizer and other chemicals. The use of iron and steel products in the heavy-machine industry completes the industrial scheme of the region. Associated with these principal activities are the quarrying of building and flux materials (dolomite, limestone, refractory clays, and cement rock), the mining of salt, mercury, and lead-zinc ores, as well as large

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Ukraine RD1

glass and soda works. A dense rail network and a unified power-transmission system connect the various enterprises. The vast number of urban centers, cities and workers' settlements, which have grown up around the metallurgical and machinery works and the coal mines, represent a concentration of almost one third of the urban population of the republic within 1/20 of its area.

Stalino Oblast

Area, 10,200, population, 3,000,000

Stalino Oblast includes the western section of the Dönets Basin, extending from the Sea to Azov in the south to the Northern Donets in the north. Agriculture (wheat, sunflowers, and cotton) is of importance only outside of the industrial section. Salt is mined near Artemovsk and mercury near Nikitovka. The principal coal-mining centers are Stalino, Makeyevka, Yenakiyevo, and Gorlovka.

Stalino, the largest city of the Donets Basin, had a population of 392,000 in 1948. It was originally called Yuzovo, or Yuzovka, for a Scottish industrialist, Hughes; it was called Stalin in the early part of the Soviet period. It has metallurgical, chemical, and coal-mining industries.

Makeyevka, a few miles northeast of Stalino, is the site of the Kirov metallurgical works, one of the largest of the Donbas, and coking installations. Coal mines operate in the suburban areas.

Yenakiyevo was called Rykovo from the 1920's until 1935, then Ordzhonikidze until 1943, when it again received its original name. It has a metallurgical industry, chemical works, and coal mines.

Gorlovka also has metallurgical, chemical, and coal-mining industries. Its northern suburb of Nikitovka has mercury mines and near-by Trudovaya is the terminus of an oil pipe line from the Groznyy fields in the Caucasus.

Konstantinovka has a metallurgical industry, zinc works, and produces ceramics, glass, and cement, as well as superphosphate fertilizer.

Kramatorsk is noted as a heavy-machine construction center which produces mining and metallurgical equipment. It also has railway-car repair shops and ceramics works. Druzhkovka, to the south, is another machinery center.

Slavyansk is a chemical center where there are salt mines and soda works, limestone quarries, and porcelain works. Artemovsk (formerly Bakhmut), to the southeast, is the center of an important salt-mining

region, having 35 percent of the reserves of the USSR, and the site of soda works.

Debal'tsevo is one of the chief rail centers of the Donets Basin.

Chistyakovo, to the south, is a major coal-mining point.

Zhdanov, called Mariupol' until 1948, the principal port for the Donets Basin, on the Sea of Azov, is the seat of the new Azovstal' metallurgical works, one of the largest of the region. It also has the Il'ich works, which produce special steels, shipyards, and fish canneries.

Voroshilovgrad Oblast

Area, 10,300, population, 1,800,000

Voroshilovgrad Oblast is the easternmost division of the Ukrainian SSR. It includes the eastern portion of the Donets Basin and extends northward into a typical Ukrainian wheat and sunflower region. Most of its coal mines produce anthracite.

Voroshilovgrad, formerly called Lugansk, has large locomotive works and metallurgical and pipe-rolling mills and produces enameled goods and mining machinery.

Voroshilovsk (formerly Alchevsk) has metallurgical and coking industries. Just south is the coal-mining city of Parizhskaya Kommuna [Paris commune].

Kadiyevka, called Sergo from 1935 until 1948, and Krasnyy Luch are the two main coal-mining centers of the oblast, with many large satellite towns grouped near by. Almaznaya, southwest of Kadiyevka, produces special steel alloys. Lesser coal centers in the southeastern section of the region are Krasnodon, Sverdlovsk, and Roven'ki.

Rubezhnoye, in the northern coal district, on the Northern Donets, has large chemical (explosives) works, and produces paints and glass.

DNIEPER BEND

THE DNIEPER BEND, which includes Dnepropetrovsk Oblast and the adjacent section of Zaporozh'ye Oblast, is the second center of heavy industry in the Ukraine. Metallurgy, which is largely based on Krivoy Rog iron ore and Nikopol' manganese, is the principal branch of the industry. It receives its coal and flux materials from the Donets Basin. Unlike the Donbas, which frequently suffers from a shortage of water, it is amply supplied with water from the Dnieper River, which is also the source of most of its electric power. The main industrial centers lie

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine R01

either at the sources of raw materials (Krivoy Rog, Nikopol') or on the Dnieper River (Dneprodzerzhinsk, Dnepropetrovsk, and Zaporozh'ye). Agricultural production emphasizes wheat, barley, sunflowers, southern hemp, and soy beans. On the basis of the local grain production and grain brought along the Dnieper, a large flour-milling industry has developed.

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast

Area, 12,600, population, 2,200,000

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast extends from the Dnieper Bend to the Donets Basin and is divided into two equal sections by the course of the Dnieper River. Grains and sunflowers are the basic crops, with some hemp in the northeast and cotton in the southwest. The major rural industries are flour milling, meat packing, and dairying.

Dnepropetrovsk, on the Dnieper River, is a major industrial and transportation center formerly called Yekaterinoslav. It has large metallurgical works, pipe rolling mills, rail and sheet-metal mills, and steel-construction works. An automobile plant is to be established during the post-war Five-Year Plan. The city has clothing, leather, and food industries and is an important lumber-trade center.

Dneprodzerzhinsk, on the Dnieper, west of Dnepropetrovsk, has metallurgical and chemical works, producing rolled steel products, coke, and nitrate fertilizer, plastics, and cement. Metal construction and railway-car building are other important activities.

Krivoy Rog, the center of a rich iron-ore region, distinguished by reserves of more than one million tons and a high metal content (70 percent), has metallurgical works and iron foundries.

Nikopol', the center of one of the main manganese areas of the USSR, has concentrating plants, shipyards, and one of the largest pipe-rolling mills of the Union. The manganese mining areas lie northeast of Nikopol' in the district of Marganets [manganese] and in the northwest, near Ordzhonikidze.

Lesser industrial centers are Novo-Moskovsk, with sheet-metal mills, and Pavlograd, a pulp-milling and furniture city.

Zaporozh'ye Oblast

Area, 10,400, population, 1,300,000

Zaporozh'ye Oblast extends from the Dnieper River to the Sea of Azov. Agricultural emphasis is on wheat in the north and on cotton

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine RD1

Kherson Oblast

Area, 10,600, population, 700,000

Kherson Oblast extends north of the Crimea from the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea. It is a typical flat, dry steppe, with cotton and wheat growing. Kakhovka, on the Dnieper River below Zaporozh'ye, is the site of the second great Dnieper dam, scheduled for 1951–5[illegible] with irrigation canals reaching into the Crimea. Skadovsk and Khorly, on the Black Sea, and Genichesk, on the Sea of Azov, are minor fishing ports.

Kherson is a major port at the mouth of the Dnieper River, where there are shipyards, repair docks, agricultural machinery works, and extensive food-canning industries. It is the terminus of a new railroad built during the Second World War from the Crimea.

Nikolayev Oblast

Area, 7,500, population, 800,000

Nikolayev Oblast lies on the Black Sea and is drained by the lower Southern Bug and the Ingul rivers. Cotton and wheat are the chief crops, with castor beans and sunflowers in the north, truck produce near Nikolayev, and dairy farming. In the rural areas flour milling, dairying, and sugar refining are the main industries.

Nikolayev lies at the head of the Bug Liman, over forty miles from the Black Sea. It is a major shipbuilding center and exports grain, sugar, iron, and manganese ore. It produces agricultural machines and has textile, food, and fish-canning industries.

Odessa Oblast

Area, 10,800, population, 1,800,000

Odessa Oblast lies in the western section of the Black Sea lowland and extends from the Black Sea to the Volyn'-Podolian upland in the north. It is bounded in the west by the Moldavian SSR. Numerous minor intermittent streams drain it in the south, and the Southern Bug in the north. Sugar beets are the main crop in the north, wheat and sunflowers in the center, and cotton in the south. Of lesser importance are corn, fruits, and castor beans. Sugar refining, flour milling, dairying, and wine making are the chief rural industries.

Odessa, the third city of the Ukraine and one of the major ports of the USSR, exports lumber and grains, and imports oil from the Caucasus, coal from the Donbas, cement from Novorossiysk, for local in-

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine R01

dustries and for transshipment to the right-bank Ukraine, Belorussia, and as far as Leningrad. Its industries include machinery works, which produce agricultural implements, machine tools, grain-elevator and food-industry equipment, cranes, and printing machinery. Its food industries process mainly sugar, flour, and canned goods. There are clothing and shoe factories, chemicals plants (superphosphate, iodine, linoleum, petroleum refining), woodworking and jute industries. The city has shipyards and railroad shops; during the post-war Plan, an automobile assembly plant will go into operation. Situated on the picturesque hillside, Odessa descends in several terraces, including a famous stairway, to the sea. Northward and southward along the coast are well-known health resorts (Khadzhibey Liman, Kugal'nik Liman Arkadiya, and Fontan) with mineral springs and mud baths. Regular overseas connections are maintained from the port.

Pervomaysk (formerly Ol'viopol') is situated on the Southern Bug and produces agricultural machines, flour, and meat.

Kirovograd Oblast

Area, 9,600, population, 1,100,000

Kirovograd Oblast lies somewhat north of the level steppe in the Volyn'-Podolian upland. It is bounded on the northeast by the Dnieper River and drained by the Ingul and Ingulets rivers. Wheat is the basic crop; sugar beets are grown in the northwest and the east, sunflowers in the south, and potatoes and flax in the moist, wooded region of the north. There are deposits of lignite, kaolin, refractory clays, and granite. Sugar refining, flour milling, and dairying are the main rural industries.

Kirovograd was originally called Yelizavetgrad. In 1924 it was renamed Zinov'yevsk, then Kirovo in 1936, and Kirovograd in 1939. It lies on the upper Ingul River in a lignite-mining region and has important agricultural machine works and food-processing plants.

Znamenka is a rail center which has metalworking and food industries.

Aleksandriya, which has tanneries and flour mills, is also developing into the main lignite-mining center of the right-bank Ukraine.

Izmail Oblast

Area, 4,800, population, 700,000

Izmail Oblast was formed in 1940 out of the southernmost part of Bessarabia which had a predominant Ukrainian and Russian popula-

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Ukraine RD1

tion. It lies between the Dniester River and the Kiliya arm of the Danube delta and has Moldavian minorities in the northwest and Bulgarian elements in the west, near Bolgrad. The main crops are wheat, barley, and corn in the northwest, where sheep are also extensively raised. Near the Black Sea there are large vineyards and orchards. The oblast is one of the most important wine-producing districts of the USSR. Along the coast there are fisheries and saltworks. Building materials constitute the only mineral resources.

Izmail (Rumanian *Ismail*) is a port and a fishing center on the Kiliya arm of the Danube delta. It produces caviar and has an active grain and lumber trade.

Kiliya (Rumanian *Chilia Nouă*) is a fishing port on the Danube delta, east of Izmail.

Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy (Rumanian *Cetatea Albă*) was known as Akkerman until 1944. It is a port on the Dniester Liman, trading in wine, fish, and wool. It has fisheries and saltworks and is surrounded by vineyards and orchards.

POLES'YE

The Ukrainian Poles'ye, which includes the oblasts of Zhitomir and Chernigov and the northern sections of Kiev and Sumy oblasts, is distinguished by a relatively high humidity, wooded terrain (especially in the west), and podsolic soils, similar to its Belorussian counterpart, which adjoins it in the north. Among the sparsely settled population, industries are poorly developed. Intensive crops are grown in the forest clearings, including flax, hemp, potatoes, and forage crops, which support some dairy-cattle herds. In the south, along the border of the wooded steppe zone, sugar beets and tobacco are cultivated. The Poles'ye is the only Ukrainian region (not counting the western oblasts, which have not been long exposed to the Soviet planned economy) where rye acreage exceeds that of wheat. Buckwheat is also grown as a local food staple. Industry is largely based on agricultural and lumber resources. Among the food industries, starch processing and distilling are the chief activities. There are woodworking and furniture plants, porcelain works, tanneries, and hemp and flax retting installations. Among the mineral resources, one should note granite, sandstone, used in the making of refractory bricks, and labradorite. Peat extraction is important as a fuel basis.

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Ukraine RDI

Zhitomir Oblast

SU Area, 11,600, population, 1,800,000

133* Zhitomir Oblast lies on the northern edge of the Volyn'-Podolian up-
241 land and extends northward into the Poles'ye. Sugar beets and wheat
U penetrate into the southern section, but in the remainder, potatoes, flax,
133 buckwheat, and hops are grown. The forested area in the north yields
241 lumber, clays, kaolin, and granite, and quartzite and has ceramic and
SU paper-milling industries. In the southern rural areas sugar refining, dis-
438* tilling, and flour milling are the main industries.
U
438 Zhitomir, on the Teterev River, is a rail center, with lumber and grain trade. It has large furniture factories.

Berdichev, an active trading center, has important sugar and leather industries and clothing and dyeing plants, and flour and tobacco products are produced there.

Korosten', a rail junction in the northern part of the oblast, has various chemical plants, glass and porcelain works, and lumber and paper mills.

Novograd-Volynskiy, in the southwest, has machine shops and distilling and furniture industries.

Chernigov Oblast

SU Area, 12,200, population, 1,700,000

133* Chernigov Oblast is bounded on the west by the Dnieper and is drained
241 by its chief left affluent, the Desna River. In addition to the basic rye,
U oats, and buckwheat crops, hemp and flax are grown in the north, po-
133 tatoes in the center, and sugar beets, tobacco, and mint in the southeast.
241 Lumbering is carried on in the wooded areas of the north and the west,
SU and peat cutting in the marshy river valleys. Sugar refining, flour mill-
438* ing, meat packing, and flax and hemp retting are the main rural indus-
U tries.
438

Chernigov, on the right bank of the Desna River, is one of the oldest cities of the Ukraine, having lumber and food-processing industries (canned goods, alcohol, and flour) and chemical works.

Nezhin is an agricultural center in a grain, potato, and sugar-beet district, while Priluki, the other industrial center of the oblast, processes sugar, tobacco, and flour and engages in the manufacture of clothing, leather goods, and furniture.

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine R02

WESTERN UKRAINE

The Western Ukraine includes those areas (except for Izmail Oblast) which were incorporated into the Ukrainian SSR after 1939 and later. Six oblasts (Rovno, Volyn', Ternopol', L'vov, Stanislav, and Drogobych) were annexed in the autumn of 1939 following the partition of Poland and the Soviet occupation of its eastern section. Chernovtsy Oblast was formed in the Northern Bukovina and the extreme northern section of Bessarabia after the acquisition of these territories from Rumania, in the summer of 1940. The Transcarpathian Oblast was ceded to the Ukraine according to an agreement with Czechoslovakia in 1945. The Western Ukraine can be roughly considered in four geographical sections: the Carpathian section in the south, on the slopes and in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains, the Poles'ye, a northern lowland along the right affluents of the Pripet River, the hilly central section in the Volyn'-Podolian upland, and the Transcarpathian section.

The Carpathian section of the Western Ukraine includes the oblasts of Chernovtsy, Stanislav, and Drogobych. Its economy is based essentially on the mineral resources of the area: petroleum, natural gas, salt, and potash, and on the lumber resources on the slopes. There are a number of health resorts in the valleys.

Chernovtsy Oblast

Area, 3,200, population, 900,000

Chernovtsy Oblast lies along the upper Prut and the Dniester rivers. The forests (mainly beech), building materials, salt, and petroleum are found in the higher foothills. Agriculture puts the emphasis on grains (wheat, corn, and barley), potatoes and sugar beets in the south and on fruit growing along the Dniester, in the northeast. Sheep raising and lumbering are the main activities in the mountains. Sawmilling, woodworking, sugar refining, flour milling, and wine making are the chief rural industries.

Chernovtsy (Rumanian *Cernăuți*) called Chernovitsy until 1944, lies on a terrace above the Prut River. It has large textile and machine industries and produces chemicals, lumber, and food products.

Storozhinets (Rumanian *Storojineț*) is a road center in the agricultural region southwest of Chernovtsy.

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine R01

Khotin (Rumanian *Hotin*) lies in an orchard and vineyard area on the Dniester River. There is a noted leather industry.

Stanislav Oblast

Area, 5,400, population, 1,800,000

Stanislav Oblast is drained by the upper Dniester and its right affluents descending from the Carpathian Mountains. It has important petroleum, salt, natural-gas, and potash deposits in the areas of Dolina and Bolekhov, with petroleum fields extending along the foothills in a southeasterly direction to Kosmach, southwest of Kolomyya. The principal oil towns are Bolekhov, Dolina, Peregínsko, Bogorodchany (where ozocerite is also secured), Solotvin, Nadvornaya, Pechenezhin, and Kosmach. Petroleum is refined at Bolekhov, Stanislav, and Kolomyya. The main lumber centers are Delyatin and Kuty, which has a large wood-distillation industry. On the right bank of the Dniester River lies the agricultural zone of the oblast, where grains, tobacco, and sugar beets are raised. Tobacco is processed at Zabolotov and sugar at Gorodenka.

Stanislav (Polish *Stanisławów*, German *Stanislau*) has railroad and machine shops, an oil refinery, and textile and leather industries and produces asphalt, ceramics, lumber, and food products.

Kolomyya (Polish *Kołomyja*, German *Kolomea*), on the upper Prut River, has machine works and oil-refining and chemical plants. Textiles and cement are also produced.

Drogobych Oblast

Area, 4,000, population, 1,200,000

Drogobych Oblast lies on the northern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains and is bordered by Poland in the west. It is the chief petroleum region of the Western Ukraine, with the chief oil fields in the area of Drogobych and Borislav. Near by are potassium and magnesium salt mines and natural-gas wells. Salt is mined at Dobromil'. Agriculture is important along the Dniester River.

Drogobych (Polish *Drohobycz*) is the center of the Western Ukrainian petroleum region, with important refining and chemical installations and potash and magnesium salt mines. It trades in petroleum, livestock, and agricultural products and produces rubber goods, lumber, and food products.

Borislav (Polish *Borysław*) is another petroleum center southwest of Drogobych. It has petroleum and natural-gas wells and engages in the

manufacture of drilling equipment and the processing of ozocerite. The health resort of Truskavets, with mineral springs, lies just to the east.[1]

Sambor is an agricultural center, with sawmilling, flour-milling, and distilling industries.

Stryy (Polish *Stryj*) is a rail center where there are machine and metalworking industries, producing mainly drilling equipment, and chemical and lumber (matches and furniture) plants. Petroleum and natural gas are secured near by. From the gas wells of Dashava, just northeast of the city, a pipe line has been laid to Kiev during the post-war Five-Year Plan for industrial and domestic consumption.

The Poles'ye, which is wooded in the north, close to the Pripet River, also contains extensive marshy areas. It is the most backward section of the Western Ukraine. Its subsistence crops are rye and potatoes. Industry is poorly developed and is restricted to flour milling, sawmilling, and brickworking in the rural areas.

Rovno Oblast

Area, 8,000, population, 1,200,000

Rovno Oblast is drained by the Goryn and its affluent, the Sluch'. In the south, on the higher ground of the Volyn'-Podolian upland, agriculture produces grains, hops, tobacco, and sugar beets; in the northern section lumbering is the main industry. Granite, cement rock, and slate are quarried.

Rovno (Polish *Równe*) is a rail center having railroad shops, agricultural machinery works, and chemical and lumber industries.

Volyn' Oblast

Area, 7,700, population, 1,100,000

Volyn' Oblast which borders on Poland along the Western Bug River in the west, has some agriculture (grains and tobacco) in the south, but mainly lumbering industries in the north, along the Pripet River and its affluents.

Lutsk (Polish *Łuck*), the capital, lies on a minor rail branch, at the southern edge of the Pripet Marshes. It is an agricultural center and produces agricultural implements, clothing, leather, lumber, and flour.

Vladimir-Volynskiy (Polish *Włodzimierz*) is a rail junction and grain-trading point near the Polish border.

[1] [of Borislav in Drogobych Oblast' -- Analyst]

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Ukraine RGL

Kovel' (Polish *Kowel*) is a rail center with knitting and hosiery mills, sawmills, tobacco, and flour mills.

The central section of the Western Ukraine lies in the fertile Volyn'-Podolian upland and includes the oblasts of Ternopol' and L'vov, as well as the adjoining zones of the oblasts to the north and the south. It is drained by the Dniester River and its left affluents, which cut deep ravines into the plateau. Its black-earth soils and the moderate climate favor an agricultural economy. The section is very similar to the right-bank wooded steppe of the old Soviet Ukraine in its dense rail network, its concentrated population, and the large number of urban centers. Grains (wheat, rye, and barley), potatoes, and sugar beets are the basic crops for the large food-processing industry, with flour mills and distilleries.

Ternopol' Oblast

Area, 5,300, population, 1,500,000

Ternopol' Oblast lies in the watershed area between the Pripet and the Dniester rivers. Grains (mainly winter wheat) and sunflowers are the principal crops throughout the larger portion of the oblast. Sugar beets are cultivated in the extreme north, and fruits in the south along the Dniester River. Building stone is quarried in several places.

Ternopol' (until 1944, Tarnopol') is a rail center with an active grain and egg trade. It produces agricultural implements, cement, lumber, and food products.

Kremenets (Polish *Krzemieniec*), on a rail spur north of Ternopol', produces flour-milling equipment, ceramics, and cement. There are peat bogs and chalk quarries.

Chortkov (Polish *Czortków*) is a rail center south of Ternopol', producing rubber goods, cement, and tile.

L'vov Oblast

Area, 4,300, population, 1,500,000

L'vov Oblast lies on the Polish border on the upper Western Bug. East of L'vov grains, potatoes, and fruits are the chief crops. Extensive quarrying industries form the basis for the manufacture of cement, glass, bricks, and tiles.

L'vov (Polish *Lwów*), the largest city of the Western Ukraine, is a nine-way rail hub and major industrial center trading in agricultural

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Ukraine R01

products, petroleum, and lumber. It produces precision instruments, radio and telegraph equipment, and light bulbs. Its machinery plants produce agricultural implements, gas equipment, and bicycles. Other industries are connected with oil refining, textile milling, glassworking, and the manufacture of furniture, shoes, and lumber and food products. During the post-war Five-Year Plan, which schedules further industrialization of the city, an automobile assembly plant will go into operation.

Zolochev (Polish *Złoczów*), on the L'vov-Ternopol' railroad, is a center for newly developed lignite mines. It has metalworking, tanning, lumber, and distilling industries.

Transcarpathian Oblast

Area, 5,000, population, 900,000

The Transcarpathian (Russian *Zakarpatskaya*) Oblast lies on the southwest slopes of the eastern Carpathians and is watered by mountain streams flowing southward to the Tisza River, an affluent of the Danube. The mountain slopes, which extend throughout the major part of the territory, are covered with excellent beech and oak stands. Fertile soils, suitable for the growing of grains (corn, wheat, oats, and rye) and potatoes, are found only in the mountain valleys and in the southern zone along the Tisza River. On the southern hill slopes grapes and tobacco are grown. Among the mineral resources salt is mined at Solotvin and there are petroleum, lignite, and low-quality iron deposits. Several mineral springs have bottling industries. Wood distillation and woodworking industries are found at Svalyava, Perechin, and Velikiy Bychkov. A paper mill has been constructed at Rakhovo during the post-war period. The region, which was formerly known as Carpatho-Ukraine, or Ruthenia, and in Czech as *Podkarpatska Rus*, was ceded by Czechoslovakia in September, 1945 and organized as a separate oblast within the Ukrainian SSR.

Uzhgorod (Czech *Užhorod*, Hungarian *Ungvár*), near the Czech border, is the capital of the oblast. It has food-processing and lumber industries.

Mukachevo (Czech *Mukačevo*, Hungarian *Munkács*), southeast of Uzhgorod, is another industrial center of the region.